

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 10 and 16 have been amended and new claim 20 is added. Claims 10-20 are pending and under consideration.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW:

An in-person interview was conducted between the Examiner and the Applicant's representative on March 16, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for his time. In the interview, the present amendments were proposed to the Examiner.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Luc (U.S. Patent 4,144,110).

Using independent claim 10 as an example, this claim recites "said rotors each having a concave portion formed substantially at a center of a tip of the respective rotor and formed of a continuous surface." In contrast, the concave portion 9b of the metal drum 9 of Luc includes holes which permit friction. Luc, col. 13, lines 50-51.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

NEW CLAIM

New independent claim 20 recites a continuous surface and accordingly is patentable over the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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